

# The Messenger - December 2016

St Andrew's Church Episcopal  
50 Sacandaga Road  
Scotia, New York 12302  
Rector - The Revd Michael Neufeld  
Deacon - The Revd Raymond Rockwell



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Parish Mission Statement:

*As members of St Andrew's Church Episcopal, our mission is to:*

*GROW spiritually, rooted in Scripture and Sacraments,*

*BRING the love of Jesus Christ into the local and wider community,*

*WELCOME all into the healing and worshipping family of Christ's Church.*

## Good News from Fr Mike:

We are blessed as Anglican Christians to celebrate the fullness of our salvation each and every year. Indeed we have a special church (liturgical) calendar. The Church year begins with the first Sunday of Advent. During this season, we remember Israel's waiting for its Messiah. During this season, we also look forward to Jesus coming at the end of time, in glory, to establish the fullness of His Kingdom. It is also a time, for us who live now, to prepare with quiet and expectation because the Lord visits us in our common everyday lives and blesses us mightily. How easy it is to miss those moments. The theme of this season is captured in that wonderful Advent hymn "O come, O come Emmanuel"

We live in loud, busy, anxious times. The time before Christmas is often a time of even more activity and noise. Often our prayer is to survive the season, not to celebrate it. Yet, we are invited by our Lord to spend time in silence with Him, to wait upon Him, and discover real peace in the midst of the insanity. Give yourself a gift this Advent and be alone with the Lord who loves you so. Seek Him through His word, through Sacraments, and just hang with Him when you have a moment, for He has a blessing for each and every one of us.

You are cordially invited to attend our Christmas Services (Sat Dec 24 at 5PM and 9PM; Sun Dec 25 at 10AM) Give a special gift to a neighbor, family member, or friend and invite them to worship along with you at Christmas. Jesus Christ is the reason for the season and His saving grace is the ultimate gift. Don't be shy. Who would the Lord have you invite?

## Christian Education offerings for all

Church School Classes – 11:00AM on Sundays

Adult Bible Studies –

Sunday morning Bible Study – 11:00AM – Sunday Lectionary readings

Sunday evening Men's Study group – 7:00PM (occasionally at 5:30PM for dinner out)

Wednesday morning Bible Study – 9:30AM – Luke

Wednesday evening Bible Study – 6:45PM – James

## Adopt-a-family

The last several years, we've purchased gift cards and given them to families so they can shop for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The families enjoyed shopping and we knew they got what they needed. We are again collecting gift cards, for 2 families, for grocery stores, Walmart, and Target. Give gift cards to Carol Kiddle or Fr Mike. Thanks for helping with this ministry.

## **From the Wardens: thoughts by Simone Rockwell**

The month of December can be a very hectic and frenzied month with gift shopping, decorating, parties, etc. Let us try to remember that it is a month of joy in the birth of our Savior. Let us pray for each other and our country. (Also, remember to say "Merry Christmas" as often as we can.)

November began with our Stewardship campaign. Thanks again to the committee of Christine Bissonette, Debbie Battista and Kevin McCarthy as well as to all who participated and helped with the breakfast, pizza/movie party, skit, and testimonies. Great job!

Vicki Ramotar and Phyllis Sleeper deserve thanks for chairing the Veteran's Day breakfast. Many thanks to all who helped with the leaf raking! It seemed like a daunting task.

Thank you to Harlan Barney and Pete Jendzezyk for their work in creating a wheelchair space in the front of Church. There are still a few things to complete before it will be usable.

The Daughters of the King held their monthly meeting with an inspiring presentation by Mother Ellen on Intercessory Prayer. The ECW bake sale was its usual success. Thank you to Joan Acker and to all the "bakers and buyers".

December is the time for our Cookie Sale on Saturday, Dec 10. Baker's are needed. A good time to get stocked up for Christmas! We also have our church cleaning day on Saturday, Dec 3. Don't forget we need your help. On Tuesday, December 13 @ 5:30 pm the Daughters of the King will be having their Christmas party meeting. Any ladies in the parish who might be interested in joining are welcome to attend. At the close of the year on New Year's Eve, we will be having a pot luck dinner after 5:00 pm service. Celebrate the new year with us!

Have and Holy and Blessed Christmas!!!

**Please Note** – for monthly Vestry minutes and finance reports, see copies posted on the Vestry bulletin board. As a member of the Parish, you are always welcome to visit Vestry meetings.

**Next meeting – Thursday, January 12 at 6:45PM in the lounge.**

Contact your Wardens: Simone Rockwell (370-3412; srockwe2@nycap.rr.com)

Marji Edgar (370-1725)

Vestry members for 2016 – Deb Battista, Agnes Bukhala, Christine Bissonette, Karen Jarosz, Todd Lavery, Kevin McCarthy, JoAnn Smith, Jeri Vincent

## **Episcopal Church Women of St. Andrew's**

Our November gathering was small but we "took care of business" as they say. Some ECW items needed decisions so we had an informal meeting.

We have again been blessed by a sizeable anonymous donation which puts us in a good position to do some things beyond our ministries. The new refrigerator is now in the lounge – please note the freezing compartment actually has a door on it that latches! We also voted to pay for the stewardship brunch this year. Clergy Christmas gifts were decided upon.

BAKE SALE – Sunday, November 20th. This was our last one because we are baking and selling things to one another and it was felt that for the decreasing revenues, our time and efforts would be better spent supporting and adding to the Dec. cookie sale and other parish projects. It is such a busy time of the year for everyone that one less thing to do should be welcome. Hopefully by doing this it will add to the success of the other events.

We thank all those who have always supported our sales in the past, by baking and buying – we couldn't have done what we have without your support.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON – December 14th at noon we will have our luncheon in the lounge at church rather than in an outside venue. It will be catered by Ruggiero's, the place that did the June luncheon, and will be FREE to all ladies of the church. Please join us as we thank everyone for all their work and support.

Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year to all, Joan Acker

## **December Services and Events and on into the new year**

Any updates and additions will be listed in the Saturday/Sunday bulletin.

Sat, Dec 3 – 9am inside church cleaning

Sat, Dec 10 – 12noon to 3PM Cookie Sale – lounge

Tues, Dec 13 – 5:30PM Daughters of the King Christmas gathering. All women of parish are invited.

Wed, Dec 14 – 12noon Women's Christmas luncheon in lounge (catered)

Relax and enjoy getting together!! All women of parish are invited.

Sun, Dec 18 – 12:15pm (after Choir rehearsal) Decorating the church for Christmas

Sat, Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Services – 5:00PM and 9:00PM

Sun, Dec 25 – Christmas Day Service – 10:00AM

Sat, Dec 31 – New Year's Eve Eucharist Service (5:00PM); Pot Luck dinner (6:00PM); and Party

Sun, Jan 22 – Annual Meeting Sunday – One Service at 9:00AM

followed by the Annual Meeting – approx 10:30AM

Vestry provides snacks

## **Weekday Eucharist Service schedule -**

Saturdays at 5:00PM

Sundays at 8:00AM & 9:45AM (except for Christmas Day)

Wednesdays at 11:00AM & 5:30PM (both in the lounge)

December, 2016  
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Episcopal Diocese of Albany  
50 Sacandaga Rd  
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*Disciples Making Disciples*